

RR #6  
June 68SITUATION INFORMATION REPORTPOOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

National Day of Support - "Solidarity Day"  
Rescheduled from Memorial Day to 19 June

A massive demonstration has been planned for 19 June in Washington, D.C. purportedly to show a united front in support of the goals of the Poor People's Campaign. Originally scheduled for Memorial Day 30 May, SCLC leaders upon realizing they were unable to cope with the organizational requirements of such a "demonstration", turned to Bayard RUSTIN, the leftist black civil rights leader, who was the chief coordinator and organizer of the Civil Rights Rally held August 1963 in Washington, D.C. RUSTIN reportedly accepted the role of National Coordinator on several conditions - one, that it would be postponed until 19 June to enable proper planning and to make it the climax of the PPC; and secondly, that he would have a strong hand in reshaping the nebulous demands of the PPC. RUSTIN subsequently issued a "Call to Americans of Goodwill" - a declaration of the objectives of the PPC - placing them in categories of immediate, intermediate and long range goals. Although ambitious in tone, they were generally accepted as being more moderate and specific than those variously demanded by the SCLC, and as having some chance of being fairly substantially attained.

SCLC leaders have since denied that RUSTIN's mission was anything more than to act in a Public Relations and march coordinating capacity for the June 19 march, and Hosea WILLIAMS and Reverend ABERNATHY have stated the RUSTIN directive does not nearly go far enough to satisfy SCLC. RUSTIN and his aides have since insisted that the statement and action was properly in his agreed upon sphere of activity and, in fact, had been approved by ABERNATHY and other SCLC leaders prior to its publication. RUSTIN has reportedly given SCLC leaders until Noon, 7 June to begin negotiations toward giving him complete authority or he will withdraw.

Whether a genuine conflict has developed on this matter between SCLC and RUSTIN or whether this is a further propaganda ploy designed to keep government leaders off balance has not been ascertained. However, as previously reported there is information that indicates Stanley LEVISON, influential SCLC advisor, who has been identified as a secret member of the CPUSA, expressed strong dissatisfaction with RUSTIN's stated goals and said they do not even go as far as those reflected by the President's Commission on Civil Disorders.

A conflict does appear to exist and if it is not resolved, it is possible that RUSTIN, who is generally believed to have opposed the PPC and the SCIC leadership initially, might withdraw his support and organizational ability from the June 19 demonstration. The fate of the March, in that event cannot be foreseen at this time. Sterling TUCKER, Executive Division of the Washington Urban League, is the Deputy Coordinator of the March and most probably could not adequately fill in as Chief Coordinator. Nor can the effect of the recent tragic assassination of Senator Robert KENNEDY and such other events as may transpire in the intervening period, be accurately assessed. A stiffening attitude on Capitol Hill, continued incidents reflecting strife and hostility within the PPC, as well as such PPC connected events as the senseless murder of two Marine officers in Georgetown may result in a strong demand by the citizenry that the demonstration be cancelled or at least be reduced to a token representation. In addition to the foregoing, it must be assumed that local and federal authorities are well aware of the increasing danger that militant blacks, the lawless elements, and assorted groups of Communists and extremists are quite likely to see in the 19 June demonstration an opportune time to create and take advantage of incidents with a view of causing as much havoc and disorder as possible.

There are so many variables existing at this time that it is impossible to accurately predict either the size or the nature of the group that will participate in "Solidarity Day", if it takes place on 19 June as planned. Estimates have ranged from 100,000 to 1,000,000 participants and it is believed that RUSTIN's goal would be to at least match the 250,000 figure that took part in the 1963 rally.

Although this Solidarity Day would purportedly be to show purport of the PPC and its goals, there is indication that it will also have a strong Anti-Vietnam War slant and it is soliciting support from many groups - a number of which are more directly active in student militancy and opposition to the War. Among those likely to be included:

1. A large number of both the "inner-city" and "metropolitan" area population either as individuals or as representatives of various civic, welfare, church, and other organizations. This figure which would cover a mixture of blacks, whites, and others could easily vary from a few thousand to many thousand depending upon the tension and climate at that time. Also from the local scene would probably be a fairly large number of students, extremists of both the right and left, and the usual number of curious on-lookers. Obviously, a large number of local, state and

federal employees will be actively involved by reason of their positions. This would necessarily include police, firemen, medical personnel, sanitation and military personnel. Another group sure to be in considerable force are those associated with the communication and news media.

2. It has been variously estimated that from 5,000 to 50,000 students will take part. RUSTIN hopes for 50,000 and has said that several hundred college student body Presidents would issue a "call" on 5 June for "mobilization". Ed SCHWARTZ, President of the NSA, said student government leaders at the 350 schools which belong to the National Student Association would work to bring in bus loads of youngsters from all over the country. Also participating is the U.S. Youth Council, to which religious and liberal organizations belong.

A large percentage of the student group, whatever its number, will be the campus militants and activists. Those already on the scene as part of the so-called Poor People's University will be augmented by many more. Hippies, black nationalists, anti-draft protesters, and radicals will be in force. For most of them, the aims of the FPC are secondary, if of interest at all, and opposing the Vietnam War is their main interest.

3. The CPUSA has indicated its support of the FPC. It most surely will be represented by both its open and secret membership, either as individuals or as members of fronts or other groups. It is understood that Stanley LEVISON, identified above, at a conference on 2 June was still opposing the choice of 19 June for the mass march because it will be in the middle of the week and adults will, in many cases, be unable to participate. He was still critical even after it was pointed out that the date was selected in order that students could participate. (FBI TWX 4 June - informant probably reliable).

It is a reasonable presumption that this mass demonstration will, for many reasons, result in a closing down of most government and private institutions in the District of Columbia and surrounding area for much of the day 19 June.

The Progressive Labor Party is expected to have representation here and presumably will be forearmed to take such advantage as possible from the occasion.

4. RUSTIN has indicated that among the Labor Union groups expected to evidence their support both by participating in the march and by donation of funds, is the United Auto Workers which will send some 2000 representatives.

5. A goodly number of public figures of all faiths and persuasions will "demonstrate" their support by making an "appearance". The political, governmental, entertainment and private business sectors will be represented.

6. Such groups as the NAACP and National Urban League as well as many religious denominations have been urged to give full support. A national call to church people to join the 19 June "support march" for the Poor People's Campaign in Washington has been issued by the National Council of Churches. A call to Unitarian Universalist churches throughout the nation to send people here also has been made.

It must be expected that a goodly number of those who participated in the 1963 rally will return for this demonstration.

7. RUSTIN has indicated that an effort will be made to recruit some 1600 marshals from fraternal organizations of the Negro members of the N.Y. Police, Fire and other Municipal worker groups. Efforts to utilize colored police and military veterans from other parts of the country are to be made. Likewise an appeal has been made soliciting the assistance of those who served as marshals in 1963.

Whether RUSTIN's efforts can be coordinated with SCLC leadership remains to be seen. The obvious emphasis is on "black" control. It may be expected that the marshals currently active in Resurrection City and PPC activities will be given Solidarity Day assignments. Coordination and organization of the various facets of this proposed mass demonstration will be a tremendous task. All participants are to arrange their own transportation to the Capitol. RUSTIN has already made requests to the D.C. and federal government agencies for assistance in connection with first aid, sanitation, and other matters.

The program planned for the day has not been announced at this time but seems to intend for a huge gathering at the Washington Monument at 10:30 A.M. followed by a march to the Lincoln Memorial at 1:30 P.M. Entertainment, speeches, and music will be offered. Because of the close proximity of the Resurrection City encampment to the demonstration site, it will be difficult to get the anticipated large crowd into the area near the Memorial. Loud-speaker outlets will be located throughout the area.

Sources - Overt news media

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\*A dissident faction of the American Independent Party has announced that it has taken steps to form a continuing national organization. A temporary national committee was formed by 150 representatives from fourteen states at a two-day convention in El Segundo, California, last weekend.

The committee's main objectives would be "assistance to all state parties in preserving their ballot qualifications, and retention of the A. I. P. as a legally constituted national party." The committee will meet early in 1969 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to form a regular national committee.

March 1969

Appeal of the conviction of Dr. Benjamin SPOCK; Rev. William Sloane COFFIN, Mitchell GOODMAN, and Michael FERBER for conspiring to urge others to break the draft law is expected to come before the Supreme Court in March.

On 4 November, attorneys for Dr. SPOCK filed a statement in the U. S. Court of Appeals that the conviction violated their constitutional right to free speech. They filed ten issues on which they hope to overturn the conviction, raised the question of whether conviction was "based upon constitutionally protected speech."

March 3

Memphis, Tennessee - James Earl RAY, accused assassin of Martin Luther KING, Jr., switched from Attorney Art HANES to Attorney Percy FOREMAN, just prior to scheduled beginning of his trial 12 November. Although Attorney HANES said the switch "was a delaying tactic pure and simple," Judge W. Preston BATTLE said he had no choice but to delay the trial and it was postponed until 3 March 1969 - this date seems also to be a tentative one as Attorney FOREMAN indicated he didn't believe it gave him adequate time to prepare his case.

April 1969

The 19th Annual Convention of the CPUSA has been scheduled for this time.

SOURCES: Government and news media reports

RELIABILITY: Probably true